

# THE ASYLUM

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"Books are books, but they are also men speaking to present and future—human extensions beyond locality and grave. They are records, documents, sources, heritage, literature, creative ideas given life and clothed with form. They are the recorded sum of human wisdom and folly, learning and ignorance, beauty and ugliness, nobility and sordidness, faith and despair."



THEODORE C. BLEGEN  
1891-1969

# The Asylum

Vol. 27, No. 1

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*Front Cover:* Architectural medallion based on the Fugio Cent, above the entrance to the B. Max Mehl building in Fort Worth, Texas (see the article in this issue by Max B. Spiegel).



## Editor's Introduction

As one of the founders of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society — in fact the one who named it — Jack Collins would be pleased to see how the organization that he helped create has grown and flourished. Despite his untimely death in 1996, his enthusiasm and dedication continue to inspire the members of the society.

It is therefore very fitting that he continues, via his family, to be a presence in the pages of this journal, whose first issues he edited. It is a pleasure to be able to print a letter from his family:

To the editor:

The family of Jack Collins would like to acknowledge the significant efforts of George F. Kolbe and Alan Meghrig in bringing Jack's unfinished manuscript on 1794 Dollars to publication. Without their initiative, diligence, and expertise, this manuscript would still be locked in the hard drive of Jack's computer. Through their efforts, special orders were taken and 1794: *The History and Genealogy of the First United States Dollar* by Jack Collins and Walter Breen was published. Our family deeply appreciates all their work to honor Jack's memory.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Betty J. Wood, Jack Collins' sister

Louise A. Wood, Nancy E. Wood, and Stanley A. Wood, Jack's nieces and nephew

They have also made a generous gift to the NBS in Jack's memory that will support an award to be made each year for the best article written by a new contributor to *The Asylum*, thus neatly combining recognition of this society's origins and its future. The candidates from 2008 are found on the back of the ballot for NBS officers as an insert in this issue. Please encourage these authors' efforts by voting!

David Yoon

# The One Hundred Greatest Items of United States Numismatic Literature: A Survey of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, Part I

*Leonard Augsburger*

At the 2007 American Numismatic Association convention, NBS President John Adams proposed that the NBS conduct a survey of the greatest literature about United States numismatics. A candidate list of approximately 400 items was published in the Fall 2007 issue of *The Asylum*. Readers were invited to suggest additional candidates, these were added, and a final ballot was distributed to the membership. Sixty ballots were returned by NBS members, who numbered their top hundred picks from 1 (highest) to 100. One hundred points were awarded for a first-place vote, ninety-nine for second place, and so on. An Excel spreadsheet was used to record and add the votes. No adjustments have been made to the resulting totals — this survey thus reflects the collective opinion of the voters.

Individual ballots, naturally, varied from the final list. Indeed, biases were evident in a number of ballots and in some cases clearly betrayed the collecting specialties of the voter — one medals, another colonials or perhaps currency, and so on. Recent works tended to rate more highly than earlier efforts, perhaps reflecting an increased familiarity with the current literature or the simple fact that modern researchers possess greatly expanded access to archival and other resources. Comprehensive and general works are frequently found towards the top of the list, while more specialized efforts are scattered throughout. Numismatic literature guides performed well in the survey, as one might expect from NBS voters.

The list as a whole is eminently collectable, particularly if one allows the occasional reprint into the fold. There are no unique or impossible items here. No doubt a few NBS members already have the entire set, and to those who have had the foresight to anticipate the top selections

of the membership, your work is already done. For the rest of us, here is a challenge; the reward will be a comprehensive library of the core works of United States numismatic literature.

The author acknowledges Charles Davis' *American Numismatic Literature*, William Malkmus' cumulative index of *The Asylum* (supplement to volume 25), Martin Gengerke's *American Numismatic Auctions*, and John Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature*, volumes I and II, all of which were invaluable in the preparation of this article. Elizabeth Hahn, ANS Librarian, and RyAnne Scott, ANA Library Manager, were helpful in responding to research and loan queries. Joel Orosz lent a number of the Top 100 entries from his numismatic library. Dave Harper contributed the entry on the *Numismatic News* (#65). Michael Savinelli contributed to the *Rare Coin Review* entry (#66). Finally, thanks are in order to NBS Secretary-Treasurer David Sundman, who coordinated the printing and distribution of the Top 100 ballots.

Due to its length, the results of the survey are being published in two parts. This part contains items 41 to 100; the next issue of *The Asylum* will print the highest-scoring 40 items, as well as lists of point totals and top scorers in particular formats (books, catalogues, etc.).

#### 41. Fuld, George, and Melvin Fuld (1959) *Patriotic Civil War Tokens*

The precursor and necessary companion to *U.S. Civil War Store Cards* (#43), *Patriotic Civil War Tokens* conquers the first half of the problem — cataloguing the privately issued “civil war cents” which bore patriotic slogans. The two works, taken as a pair, represent a substantial reworking of Hetrich and Guttag’s 1924 effort, *Civil War Tokens and Tradesman’s Cards*. Indeed, the Fulds added 4000 varieties to the 7000 previously enumerated. This volume describes and illustrates over 500 of the patriotic designs, and, when the mules and off-metal strikes are thrown in, the resulting list of varieties numbers over 2000. The authors clearly exerted great effort untangling the mules, and came to refer to the task as “Civil War mumbly-peg.” The Fulds had set the bar high, and now faced the challenge of completing the second half of the project.

#### 42. Overton, Al (1967) *Early Half Dollar Die Varieties, 1794-1836*

After the early copper enthusiasts, Overton’s disciples are among the most zealous of the variety hunters. Early halves are fertile ground for collectors — rich in variety and ample in number. The workhorse of early American silver, and struck in greater quantities than its brethren of the same metal, the bust

series in particular remains highly available to today's collector, though to be sure rare varieties are scattered about. The 1817/4 (Overton-102) is particularly well known in this regard and commands the front pages of the hobby press whenever a new specimen is discovered. Overton's variety work is definitive and remains the standard for early half-dollar attribution. The fourth edition, published in 2005 with twice the page count of the original, contains updates from Overton's son-in-law, Don Parsley, including new oversized photographs and condition census data.

#### 43. Fuld, George, and Melvin Fuld (1972) *U.S. Civil War Store Cards*

Melvin and George Fuld's compendium of "Civil War cents" brings order to a chaotic assemblage of over 8000 varieties, issued by US merchants in response to the lack of circulating hard money beginning in 1862. The experiment with privately issued coinage was quickly put to rest by an Act of Congress, which in 1864 prohibited the practice, but not before millions of the commercial tokens (known as "store cards") had been produced. The Fulds' 600-plus-page work categorizes these tokens by state and includes photographs of nearly every known type. Credit is given to any number of individuals, as this herculean task was beyond even the dynamic duo of Fuld father and son, who edited certain portions while authoring others. Together with *Patriotic Civil War Tokens* (#41), Melvin and George Fuld thus delivered the standard and enduring presentation of these metallic expressions of the American conflict.

#### 44. Davis, Charles (1992) *American Numismatic Literature*

Davis's work is the best single volume on the subject. Davis lists 1200 items, along with pricing information and descriptions extracted from numismatic literature auction sales in the 1980s and early 1990s — all told, over 3000 auction references are detailed here. The wealth of technical data is superseded only by the trenchant pen of the author, whose interspersed editorial comments ("priceless," according to Michael Hodder) turn the entire production into a lively and engaging affair. Davis is not afraid to call one reference "dry reading," while elsewhere he notes that Clain-Stefanelli's *Numismatic Bibliography* left American collectors "feeling snakebitten," and that another author's work is "self-aggrandizing" in nature. Useful appendices enumerate Woodward and Chapman auction catalogues, as well as the ANS monograph series.

#### 45. *The Colonial Newsletter* (1960-date)

"Dedicated to the study of early American numismatics," *The Colonial Newsletter* represents the best American approximation of the European numismatic discipline — focused on history and technical studies with little care for

matters of the market. Currently edited by Gary Trudgen and published three times per year by the American Numismatic Society, the *Newsletter* is written to an academic standard, well illustrated and thoroughly footnoted. While the entire content may not exert a universal appeal, the specialist will consistently encounter well-executed and indispensable research, though the simple 8.5"×11" stapled format belies the value of the publication. A CD containing issues 104 through 138 (1997-2008) is available from the ANS.

#### 46. Cohen, Roger S. (1971) *American Half Cents, the Little Half Sisters*

Cohen's book, like many others, came about from the author's desire "that for the last twenty years I have wanted to read it." Thus, the self-published work appeared in 1971, likely at considerable expense to the author—a labor of love and a gift to the hobby. While half cents had been previously treated by Ebenezer Gilbert in 1916, Cohen felt a need to update the work and re-work Gilbert's emission sequences. Cohen produced a complete photographic record by die variety, though some of the halftones are less than ideal for attribution purposes—a second edition in 1982 addressed this shortcoming. Beyond Gilbert, Cohen spent a considerable amount of time in the National Archives chasing information on planchet and coinage shipments. The work is superseded by Breen's *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents*, but as collectors may acquire both for less than the cost of a nice half cent, they ought to pursue the pair, as well as Ron Manley's *The Half Cent Die State Book* (#185 in our survey), an EAC award-winner that presents research updates set amid splendid photographs.

#### 47. George F. Kolbe (1998-2000) *Bass Library*, parts 1-4

A 2000-lot celebration of American numismatic literature, this writer's task might have been considerably simplified given a few days inside the Bass library — but more likely we would have been distracted to the point of paralysis. Where to begin? Bid books of all flavors abound, while plated versions of the important early sales seem prolific as kudzu. Impossible items like Thian's *Register of the Confederate Debt* or the E.H.R. Green eagle and half-eagle photographic plates seem to appear every few pages. Other delicacies include Bushnell's copy of the Roper sale, Hart's treatise on colonial paper money with historical chart, and *The Numismatist* from the first President of the ANA. Beyond individual rarities, the capable executive Bass was more than happy to leverage the efforts of others, in particular Melvin and George Fuld, who contributed to the Bass collection Woodward, Low, Haseltine, Frossard, and Elder sets, among other items. A decade later, many of the prices realized in

the Bass sale seem quite attractive — yet another reminder that today's record price is often tomorrow's bargain.

#### 48. Vermeule, Cornelius (1971) *Numismatic Art in America*

A professor in fine arts and classics at Boston University, and director of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, Cornelius Vermeule applied a much-needed perspective of artistic criticism to the field of American numismatics. For the collector who has graduated past dates and mintmarks, Vermeule delivers a delightful exposé of the oeuvre of our national engravers, setting their work in historic and artistic context. Although isolated from the Old World by space and time, early American artists remained highly influenced by a common Greco-Roman heritage, for which the reader will have a much greater appreciation after absorbing Vermeule's volume. The second edition, published by Whitman in 2007, is illustrated in full color and adds a chapter by David T. Alexander updating the work from its original writing in 1971 to the present time.

#### 49. Baker, William S. (1885) *Medallic Portraits of Washington*

Many Americans of the present era miss the veneration accorded to the “father of our country” in former times. So numerous were these tributes that eventually order was in order, and Baker accepted the challenge, issuing not only this catalogue of over 600 Washington medals, but also three associated works dedicated to biographies, engraved portraits, and character sketches of the first president. Washingtonia was an early numismatic craze, fueled by the



Figure 1. Medal commemorating the inauguration of the Washington Cabinet of Medals (Baker 326). Photo by John Baumgart.

creation of the Washington Cabinet of medals inaugurated by the US Mint in 1860. The Cabinet was noteworthy enough to inspire its own medal (Fig. 1), Baker-326, which combined an adaptation of Houdon's celebrated Washington bust with a rendering of the Cabinet display. America being America, public adulation piqued commercial interest, which did not shy from occasionally muling Washington with lesser subjects, "a perversion of true medallic purposes" in Baker's opinion, whose own work has endured and remains highly regarded in our survey.

50. Haxby, James A. (1988) *A Standard Catalog of United States Obsolete Bank Notes, 1782-1866*, volumes 1-4

Along with Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* and Bowers' *Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States*, Haxby is one of the modern encyclopedic references whose popularity on the secondary market has substantially grown in recent years, and today the four-volume set easily trades at 700 dollars and up. Cataloguing thousands of state bank notes, the work is evocative of the Fulds' *Civil War Store Cards* (#43), meandering through the country from city to city in search of an economic paper trail. Complementing the catalogue are thousands of photographs, a rich iconography proclaiming the ideals of a young American republic. Indeed, the author indicates that over 20,000 photographs were taken during the original research, an immense illustrative investment which extraordinarily enhances the presentation.

51. Breen, Walter, Del Bland, and Mark Borckardt (2000) *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Cents, 1793-1814*

Early coppers are the foundation of American numismatic research, and this volume proves that they maintain a sizable lead on lesser brethren. While certain American series still lack comprehensive die-variety guides, Breen et al. have raised the bar even further. No longer is it sufficient simply to describe all the dies and marriages. Here the three B's are like atomic physicists, exploring successively smaller bits. Individual die progressions are thoroughly explicated, yearly mintage figures are broken down into single deliveries, and copious condition censuses (thousands of citations coordinated by Del Bland) include even die-state information. Surrounding the date-by-date analysis are any number of additional features, most notably 34 die-marriage plates, plus a contribution from Craig Sholley on the technology of the early Mint. To be sure, Sheldon remains the core, but that makes this work no less indispensable.

**52. Noe, Sydney P. (1952) *The Pine Tree Coinage of Massachusetts***

Number 125 in the ANS Numismatic Notes and Monographs series, Noe's essay on the Pine Tree coinage completed his trio of monographs on Massachusetts silver. Once again, Crosby, "the rock-like foundation for any study of the early coinage of our country," was frequently cited, to the extent of reprinting Crosby's die tables for the Pine Trees. Noe renumbered the Crosby varieties, adding a number of clarifications, and today these remain the standard for Pine Tree attribution. Noe further treated copies, inevitable imitations of anything desirable and ancient. Many of the plates illustrated examples from the T. James Clarke collection, which eventually landed in the hands of the acquisitive John Ford. As a result, Ford XII (October 2005) is a mandatory "go with" for Noe, featuring oversized photography almost better than the coins themselves.

**53. Noyes, William C. (1991) *United States Large Cents, 1793-1814***

Nine works on our top 100 list are fully dedicated to early-date large cents. Noyes' 1991 offering delivers the definitive photographic record of the world according to Sheldon varieties. Large, easy-to-use images illustrate each variety, and in some cases intermediate die states are also depicted. The text describes the technical attributes of each variety, one per page, and for the copper-impaired among us specific pick-up points are noted using pointers to the illustrations. Condition censuses are offered for each issue, and these are keyed to entries in the Noyes color photograph collection, easily exceeding a thousand examples. While the photographs in the book are exclusively black-and-white, the author notes in the introduction that color images of any may be ordered. Thus, if one desires a set of color photographs of the highest graded Sheldon-276s (this writer's favorite for its "around the clock" feature), they are just a letter (and check) away.

**54. Rulau, Russell, et al. (2004) *Standard Catalog of United States Tokens, 1700-1900***

The breadth of this work is perhaps best expressed by the massive 55-page index. The remainder of the book, well over a thousand pages and including over 5000 photographs, delivers precisely what is promised by the title. Rulau thus achieves what "at one time may have seemed impossible" — a comprehensive guide to all United States tokens for the period in question. While the Civil War store card and patriotic token sections are deliberately abbreviated (readers are referred to Fuld, #41 and #43 in our survey), there is simply no better guide for the generalist. The list of contributors runs two full pages of small

print, meaning that Rulau has effectively acted as the CEO of a medium-sized company in order to produce this titanic tribute to the token.

#### 55. Noe, Sydney P. (1947) *The Oak Tree Coinage of Massachusetts*

Noe's discussion of Massachusetts Oak Trees, number 110 in the ANS Notes and Monographs series, is the briefest of his trilogy encompassing Massachusetts silver. As Noe admits, "there is little to add to Crosby's excellent recording of the data." And indeed, Noe identifies no additional varieties, but does offer a chronological reordering of the Crosby reverses along with credible technical analysis to support his conclusions. T. James Clarke's collection, many of them Würtzbach plate coins, form the basis for the ten plates. As Noe's three separate monographs on Massachusetts silver present a triple challenge for the collector, perhaps the only fault one can find with these defining works is that they were published serially rather than as a single volume.

#### 56. New York Coin and Stamp (1890) *Parmelee*

In his *United States Numismatic Literature*, Adams confers his highest praise ("absolutely definitive") on the Parmelee cabinet. Prior to Adams-Woodin (1913), the catalogue served as a useful resource for pattern collectors, describing over 250 specimens. The pre-federal content is a necessary companion to Crosby's *The Early Coins of America*, including a number of plate coins from that core reference. Not to be outdone was the federal portion of the collection, replete with an 1804 dollar, 1815 and 1822 half eagles, an 1827 quarter, plus massive amounts of proof gold including the 1844 New Orleans delicacies. Davis notes 100 deluxe editions of the original catalogue, quarter calf with thirteen plates. A well-done reproduction, priced and plated, was issued by the B&B Coin Company (Marion, Ind.) in 1975, to the extent of 250 numbered copies.

#### 57. S. H. & H. Chapman (1882) *Bushnell*

Arguably the most influential auction catalogue in our survey, Bushnell was a game changer that single-handedly had more impact on the practice of cataloguing than any other item on our list. Presaging the "grand format" of late twentieth-century color-plated catalogues, Bushnell raised the bar with its large size and detailed cataloguing. The Chapmans charged five dollars for a liberally plated copy, easily a hundred in current dollars, a shocking figure both then and now. Although outraged with the young upstarts, fellow dealers were eventually forced to follow suit, and auction catalogues have not been the same since. A set of reprint plates, along with the original unplated version of the catalogue, recently sold for about 600 dollars (Fanning Auction I, lot 435).

58. Evans, George G. (1885) *History of the United States Mint at Philadelphia*

The constant flow of visitors to the United States Mint, combined with old-fashioned American capitalism, ensured that some book of this kind would eventually be created. Naturally it includes an overview of the Mint Cabinet, a tourist magnet in former times, along with history of the Mint operations and coinage. The best-selling numismatic book of its era, Evans claimed to have sold over 100,000 copies, many distributed along with George Soley medalets struck on the first steam coinage press, and today the breadth of variants is still not fully catalogued. George Kolbe has come the closest, discussing Frank Van Zandt's collection of 158 copies of this work, in his 104th sale of November 2007. Though hardly a paradigm of scholarship, Evans remains a worthy entrant on our list as the most widely known American numismatic work at the close of the nineteenth century.

59. Attinelli, Emmanuel J. (1876) *Numisgraphics, or a List of Catalogues in Which Occur Coins or Medals Which Have Been Sold by Auction in the United States*

Attinelli's numismatic bibliography is a little jewel, 100-plus pages defining the state of American numismatic literature on the occasion of the Centennial. A listing of auction catalogues by year from 1828 to 1875, *Numisgraphics* also contains bibliographic information on books, periodicals, fixed price lists, and institutional collections. Like Davis (#44), Attinelli weaves personal observations throughout the text, such as this backhanded commentary on Mint insiders, regarding the Longacre sale of 1870: "Though containing a large number of pattern pieces, yet it is not so full as might have been expected from one so long connected with the U.S. Mint." Were a modern collector to go back in time and assemble a library in the 1870s, this would be the traveler's guidebook, although one would probably have to settle for the 1976 Quarterman reprint, as the 1876 edition is rare. Presumably an original would be acquired by our time traveler!

60. Bowers, Q. David (1998) *American Numismatics Before the Civil War, 1760-1860*

This is Bowers at his best, poking through archives and old books, synthesizing American history and American numismatic history into a coherent and enduring whole. Covering the collectors, dealers, and numismatic fashion of the era, the nexus of the book is found in the person of Augustus Sage, 1850s New York coin dealer and founding member of the American Numismatic

Society. While the Sage token series and Sage auction sales are meticulously detailed, the most compelling aspect of the presentation is the time machine which apparently exists behind a secret wall in Bowers' library (in *Adventures with Rare Coins*, #72 on our list, Dave felt compelled to deny the existence of said time machine), for the reader is figuratively transported to New York and Philadelphia in the nineteenth century and made an eyewitness to the blooming American numismatic activity at the eve of the Civil War.

61. Van Allen, Leroy, and George Mallis (1971) *Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Morgan and Peace Dollars*

The release of silver dollars in the early 1960s, millions upon millions of romantic cartwheels, fueled the collecting public into a frenzy of Morgan monomania which remains today unabated. In retrospect it seems inevitable that minute differences in grade and die variety became matters of great import to the coin collector, a breed obsessed with even the slightest distinction. It is to the latter attribute that this book, early versions of which were distributed as early as 1964, is dedicated. Hundreds of Morgan and Peace dollar die varieties are herein catalogued and well illustrated, and today collecting by "VAM" (short for Van Allen / Mallis) variety is as popular as ever, with Morgans remaining a sizable portion of the American numismatic trade. For those whose tastes are not so overtly commercial, the book contributes a generous helping of archival research to the subject and would be a worthy entrant on our list for that reason alone.

62. Kagin, Donald (1981) *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States*

This is the story of three gold rushes in American history, starting in the Appalachians in the late 1820s, exploding in California twenty years later, and concluding in Colorado in the late 1850s. Although California has most captured popular thought, all three are intertwined with private gold coinage, technically illegal but tolerated by a federal government unable to service the blood of commerce. Kagin does more than merely catalogue the artifacts; indeed, the reader must persist until the detailed appendix in order to find the usual technical data. For the real treasure here is the wealth of historical context surrounding private gold coinage — stories of the coiners and the mints, of early strikes and the halting attempts of the US Government to absorb the gold economy. A useful associated item is a sale catalogue recently issued by Kagin's, entitled *The Robert Bass Collection: The Finest Collection of Pioneer Patterns Ever Assembled*.

**63. Breen, Walter, and Ronald Gillio (1983) *California and Fractional Gold: Historic Gold Rush Small Change, 1852-1856***

It is most fitting that #62 and #63 in our survey are adjacent entries, for Breen and Gillio tell “the rest of the story,” and one does not have the whole picture of private gold without both references. While Kagin focuses on sexier high-denomination gold, this work covers the thumbnail-sized small change, again issued privately and dictated by the needs of commerce before the San Francisco mint was able to process silver in any useful quantity. Hundreds of catalogue entries, liberally photographed, describe varieties of California small-denomination gold — quarter, half, and whole dollars. Auction citations and pedigrees are especially rich — indeed, this is truly a “buyer’s guide” for the series. The second edition, published by Bowers & Merena in 2003 and among the last of the great B&M titles, contains much new research contributed by Robert D. Leonard, including data on the Smithsonian holdings, and is highly recommended.

**64. Beistle, Martin L. (1929) *A Register of Half Dollar Varieties and Sub-varieties***

“There is nothing new under the sun,” writes the author of Ecclesiastes, and twenty-first-century numismatic addictions are certainly no exception, judging from Beistle’s foreword, which states that “for more than twelve years all spare time available from business and family, was devoted to this hobby.” Beistle’s accounting is quite plausible, based on the thorough die-variety descriptions found here. Unfortunately only a few of the dates are plated, making the text perhaps more useful to Beistle than to anyone else. Nevertheless, this remained the standard reference until eclipsed much later by Overton and Wiley-Bugert. Interest in Beistle has recently spiked with Bill Bugert’s discovery of the Beistle company archives; full details are presented in *The Asylum* (January-March 2008) and *The Gobrecht Journal* (November 2007).

**65. *Numismatic News* (1952-date)**

The “Num News,” in coinspeak, was founded by Chet Krause as a monthly trader newspaper for US coin collectors in 1952. The subscription fee of \$2 per year included free classified ads, a long-time hallmark of the publication. News was added as the 1950s progressed and the frequency increased, though it did not become a weekly until 1969. Tom Fruit served as the first editor, though it was Ed Rochette, holding the post from 1960 to 1966, who made it a true newspaper. Coverage broadened to include world coins and paper money, and this in turn spawned sister titles such as *World Coin News*, *Bank Note*

*Reporter*, *Coin Magazine*, and *Coin Prices Magazine*. Writers have included R. W. Julian, Paul Green, and David Ganz. Cliff Mishler joined the staff in 1963 and forty years later retired after serving as CEO. Current editor Dave Harper joined the firm in 1978 and has held the post since 1994. Other past editors include Mishler, Ed Reiter, Arnold Jeffcoat, and Aryln Sieber.

### 66. *Rare Coin Review* (Bowers and Merena) 1969-2003

Aptly described by Charles Davis as “an appealing mix of salesmanship and scholarship,” Q. David Bowers’ house organ was an excessively engaging numismatic read. With something for everyone, from scholarly articles to accumulations of trivia gleaned from the seemingly bottomless research files of QDB himself, the *Rare Coin Review* rightfully takes its place in the pantheon of dealer periodicals, “front row center,” as Dave might say. Oh yes, there were coins, too, splendidly photographed and neatly presented on glossy paper (in the later issues), all of which the present writer (who eventually earned from the editor the much-coveted “constant reader” title) eagerly anticipated on a bi-monthly basis. Opportunity beckoned for the authors of companion pieces — Ken Lowe prepared a well-organized index of the first hundred numbers, while Joel Orosz authored a history of the *Rare Coin Review* which appeared in RCR #100 in July 1994 and provided a “you are there” window directly into the Bowers & Merena editorial office. Altogether, an “era of good feeling” was surely in the offing whenever the latest *Review* was united with an overstuffed chair — quite a pleasant combination, this!

### 67. Carothers, Neil (1930) *Fractional Money: A History of the Small Coins and Fractional Paper Currency*

Carothers’ “history of small coins and fractional paper currency” is really an economic history of the United States told through the story of its coinage. The author, a professor of economics at Lehigh University, wrote to a high standard and left no stone unturned, searching “more than a thousand periodicals and government documents” in order to present substantial original material.

Written in 1929, the work is remarkably durable and remains useful today. Sadly, in the interest of brevity, Carothers eliminated “many interesting details...and two important chapters” from the final version — a bibliographic loss if ever one existed, and a treasure waiting to be reclaimed in an archive.

### 68. Stack’s / Kolbe (2004-05) *Ford Library*, parts 1-2

Indispensible, informative, and important, George F. Kolbe offers another glimpse into the complexities of John Ford, this time through the eyes of

Ford's reference library. As Kolbe puts it, according to Ford, "the condition of one's library was the barometer of one's character." He might have added the content of one's library as well, for in this case it tells us a good deal about Ford, who often remarked that among all his collections, his reference library was the favorite. Ford pursued many sources outside the numismatic mainstream, including city directories, mining and banking, regional histories — in short, anything to get an edge on the competition. And while he did not personally collect federal coinage, he certainly dealt in it and had the library to back it up, including a superb run of Chapman bid books and plated catalogues, the Newcomer inventory, the E. H. R. Green inventory, and hundreds of other items, all here meticulously described by the California cataloguer Kolbe.

69. Bowers, Q. David (1991) *The American Numismatic Association Centennial History*, volumes 1-2

What happens when the irresistible force meets the immovable object? Here we have Dave's dynamic and prolific pen facing off against a hundred years of *The Numismatist*. In this episode, Bowers distills the century-long ANA history into two mega-volumes and creates a useful companion to *The Numismatist* itself. While much text is reused from the ANA publication, the point is that we are seeing the annals of the ANA through Bowers' eyes, and to be sure Bowers includes numerous personal observations regarding the material at hand. As such, whenever using *The Numismatist* for research, it is wise to cross-check this reference for additional commentary.

70. Dickeson, Montrovile (1859) *The American Numismatical Manual*

One often thinks of the Red Book as the "first" standard guide, but Dickeson is a true eye-opener. Here is the primordial soup of the modern comprehensive catalogue. While the plates look like play money and technical errors abound (for example, the 1797 half dollar is unlisted), Dickeson represents a necessary stepping stone in American numismatic scholarship. An accumulative science by definition evolves, and Dickeson could have done much worse as he drew upon the few written sources along with personal contacts in the nascent numismatic community. The result was the first comprehensive, illustrated view of aboriginal, colonial, federal, pattern, and territorial coinage. While modern guides are far more accurate (and affordable), they do not convey the wonder of birth that one senses in Dickeson. Serendipitously, the next item in our survey — the Mickley cabinet — served as one of Dickeson's principal resources.

### 71. W. Elliot Woodward (1867) *Mickley*

Mickley was one of the first blockbuster sales in American numismatics and as such tells us a great deal about what was important to collectors of the era. For starters, there was no quibble with quantity, more than 3300 lots being sold over six evening sessions. Ancients and European coins and medals fill the first half of the catalogue, setting the stage for a small American federal offering of only a few hundred lots. But what lots! The listing of pre-1858 proof sets by year is a great display of collecting prowess, and one sees also the genesis of variety collecting, particularly among the copper pieces. The usual rarities, necessarily a much shorter list in 1867, are all here, from the 1804 dollar to the 1827 quarter and so on. American patterns, colonials, and medals follow. Finally, a tip of the hat is given to present-day bibliophiles at the end of the sale, over a hundred lots, so that today we can peer back in time and see what the numismatist Mickley kept on his bookshelf — an assemblage worth studying with a copy of Attinelli (#59) at hand. Much later, in 1996, Charles Davis produced a named and priced hardbound reprint of *Mickley* which is a faithful reproduction of the original.

### 72. Bowers, Q. David (1979) *Adventures with Rare Coins*

John J. Ford felt strongly enough about this work to contribute a five-page foreword, revealing between the lines that buried underneath a “suffer-no-fools” façade was an insatiable curiosity driven by mythology as much as by mammon. Bowers more than lives up to Ford’s expectation, delivering a full helping of the romance and lore that is numismatics. Taking a simple idea like the nickel, for example, Q. David effortlessly riffs on any number of seemingly unrelated topics, from early motion-picture theaters to proof sets with “fork marks,” and neatly ties his toolbox of tales into a surprisingly coherent chronology. Every page presents yet another engaging story, and interspersed are delightful period illustrations, many of them the “needle in a haystack” sort so indicative of a deep immersion in American history. Bowers’ “combination of the pedantic with the romantic,” as Eric Newman put it, once again reminds us that questions of valuation or even rarity are merely footnotes to a far richer narrative.

### 73. Akers (1997-99) Pittman, parts 1-3

The poster child of every numismatic investment promoter, Pittman is actually more noteworthy for the conviction of the collector than for the aggressiveness of the auction bidders, for Pittman chose his discipline carefully and steadfastly followed his own path for a long period of time. Of course, had Pittman been chasing nineteenth-century apothecary scrip of the Oswego

River instead of early proof coinage, he would be merely a footnote in numismatic history, albeit one with a definitive collection! That he chose to pursue undervalued condition census material which later came to the fore was part prescience and perhaps part luck — in any event, the investment returns were nothing short of spectacular. While Pittman lacked the comprehensive coverage of Eliasberg, his eye for future delicacies was stronger, and the Akers' catalogues are every bit as competitive for early United States proof coinage.

#### 74. Garrett, Jeff, and Ron Guth (2006) *Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins, 1795–1933*

A foundational work including over 3000 color images, this volume belongs in the library of every United States gold collector. Beyond unleashing the ultra-prolific camera of Tom Mulvaney, the authors have accepted the monumental challenge of finding something interesting to say about *every* United States regular issue and proof gold coin, and have remarkably succeeded. Gold patterns are well covered and a useful adjunct to the standard work by Akers (#90); gold commemoratives are of course catalogued as well. Collector aids including population reports, auction records, and current pricing data are all here. Finally, the authors include a long overdue inventory of the National Numismatic Collection, updating Compartette's work of almost a century ago.

#### 75. B. Max Mehl (1941) *Dunham*

The only Mehl emission to appear on our list (the author informally lobbied for Mehl's *Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia*, which finished 114th), this sale crowned Mehl's career, and was in his own words "the realization of a lifelong ambition," as he had long known and admired the Chicago collector William Forrester Dunham. The highlight of the catalogue was an 1804 dollar, accompanied with varied documentation signed by the royalty of American numismatics, names like Chapman, Snowden, Eckfeldt, DuBois, and others. As if that were not enough, the cabinet boasted also an 1822 half eagle, 1841 quarter eagle, 1884 trade dollar, and voluminous amounts of proof gold. An important set of encased postage stamps rounds out the mix in this, Mehl's greatest catalogue.

#### 76. Hibler, Harold, and Charles Kappen (1963) *So-Called Dollars*

Medallic art and history is a potent combination, offering a platform for the preservation of national and local heritage quite unlike any other — visceral, easily reproduced, and far more durable than other media. As such, it was inevitable that the great exposition movement of the nineteenth century would give rise to a host of medallic issues. Public hordes would not be denied their souvenirs, and the commercial interests were more than happy to play their

part. Of the multitude of varieties of dollar-sized medals produced in association with these events, the authors have enumerated over 900 of the most significant, supplying the basic historical and metrological background of each. While not completely comprehensive, this is the best guide on the subject and is rightfully included in the library of every token and medal collector. A recent second edition updates rarity and pricing information, and includes a section of color plates, while the associated deluxe edition is hardbound and fully illustrated in color throughout.

77. Bowers, Q. David (2006) *Obsolete Paper Money Issued by Banks in the United States, 1782-1866*

The National Bank Act of 1863 and subsequent acts effectively removed non-federal currency from circulation and introduced a uniformity of paper money which persists to the present day. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the paper money collector's version of the first United States Mint, commenced operations in 1862 and quickly centralized the business of the nation's paper money. The pre-story, conversely, is spread over a multitude of independent banks, journeyman engravers, persistent counterfeiters, and an alphabet soup of predecessor firms which ultimately formed the American Bank Note Company. Such disparate investigations are outside the hands of most researchers, and we are fortunate that we have a Dave Bowers to put the whole story together. The result is a comprehensive overview of the creation, production, circulation and redemption of obsolete paper money, and along the way are the delightful sideways glances for which Bowers is famous. The most interesting here is the story of the American Bank Note Company archives, not to mention an in-depth view of the Carroll County (NH) bank, from which a great amount of archival material has survived. Combined with a micro view such as Haxby (#50), the Bowers volume will serve the obsolete paper money collector to great advantage.

78. Adams, John W., and Anne E. Bentley (2007) *Comitia Americana and Related Medals*

The epitome of the bibliophilic arts, *Comitia Americana* combines superb research with world-class technical production. The result is one of the best specialized books ever, dedicated to presenting an account of the earliest American medals awarded by Congress, along with several others typically associated with the Comitia series. The story of Jefferson's ambivalence, among others, is related to maximum effect, on thick paper with the most technologically advanced plates (an interesting counterpart to our next entry), all bound in linen. The leatherbound deluxe edition is a wonder all its own; the reader is

referred to *The Asylum* (vol. 26, no. 2) for full detail. Thoroughly footnoted, all the clues are here for the medallic bloodhound to begin searching for the delicacies which have eluded the authors — the gold Daniel Morgan perhaps still residing in the family, or for the more ambitious, the missing pair of gold Libertas pieces, likely the most valuable numismatic objects on the planet. For the less ambitious, the book itself is a great discovery on its own!

79. Eckfeldt, Jacob, and William DuBois (1842) *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations Struck Within the Past Century*

“A treatise on coins,” write the authors, “which does not present a picture of them, is but half fitted for its purposes.” Even a decade before the numismatic boom of the 1850s, it was obvious that coin books needed to be picture books. The first chapters of this work concentrate on technical specifications of world gold and silver coinage, a subject near and dear to Eckfeldt and DuBois as assayers of the US Mint. But the real fun starts in Chapter 6, when Joseph Saxton’s steam-powered medal ruling machine is put to work on electrotypes produced from Mint Cabinet specimens, most notably an 1804 dollar. The results were remarkable for the time, especially as Saxton’s contraption automated the entire process. Sixteen plates are included in all, two with American content. Another prize is the frontispiece, an image of the second United States mint, produced using the daguerreotype, electrotype, and Saxton’s medal ruler — a trio of the latest technology. That one of the first American daguerreotypes was executed by Saxton himself, peering out of the same building, in 1839, only heightens the sense of promise of illustrative science that Eckfeldt and DuBois captured for posterity.

80. Bowers & Merena (1982) *The Celebrated John Adams Collection of United States Large Cents of the Year 1794*

This is a collection and presentation dripping with numismatic history, for Adams pursued 1794s not just by Sheldon varieties but also by provenance, and the older the pedigree, the better! Almost all Sheldon varieties are represented, and more often than not condition census specimens are the order of the day. The catalog is replete with useful biographical information, including several pages on Adams himself, while an overlooked appendix presents brief sketches of over a hundred individuals and firms associated with the 1794s. A hardbound edition includes two photographic plates as well as a list of subscribers to this limited edition of 256 numbered copies. The front cover depicts an engraver at work in the first United States Mint with a cat curled up underneath the engraver’s stool, a bit of “inside” humor, as Adams is an inveterate fan of the feline.

81. Fivaz, Bill, and J. T. Stanton (1990) *The Cherrypicker's Guide to Rare Die Varieties*

From the thoroughly explicated 1794 cent we go to something impossible to delineate — modern coinage struck upon countless dies which are so consistently produced that most are impossible to distinguish. What is a variety collector to do? The Fivaz / Stanton guide is a good start, cataloguing the most interesting and collectible of the modern varieties, and to be sure earlier coinage is represented as well. The title has proved to be popular with variety devotees, and is now split into two volumes and in its fifth edition. Fivaz / Stanton ("FS") attributions are seen widely throughout the literature and "cherrypicks" are regularly reported in the hobby press and in online forums. The two authors have done much to set the rules of engagement for modern collectors, and so far the direction seems to be persistent.

82. Noyes, William C. (1991) *United States Large Cents, 1816-1839*

"Volume Two" of Noyes picks up the large cent series with the middle dates, following up on his work on the early large cents (#53). Both books were released at the same time, and the formula for the pair is identical — masterful photography with clear explication of the varieties for each date. Condition census data for the middle dates is less established than for the prolifically pursued early dates, but Noyes' presentation is no less polished. The book is a necessary "go with" for Newcomb's *United States Copper Cents*, even preferable if the collector desires only a single guide, as variety attribution will be greatly facilitated by Noyes' oversized photographs.

83. Clapp, George H. (1931) *The United States Cents of the Years 1798-1799*

"The result of eight years of study," Clapp exhibited a high standard of scholarship, on par with the previously published works of Crosby (cents of 1793), Hays (1794), and Newcomb (1800, 1801, 1802). Davis praises the "painstakingly researched, exquisitely photographed reference" for its accuracy, which Clapp dedicated to Newcomb and to fellow large cent collector Henry C. Hines. Indeed, Denis Loring cites Newcomb as an unnamed collaborator for this work, and it is no surprise that Clapp and Newcomb formally teamed up for their next book on large cents (#99), which covered the years 1795, 1796, 1797, and 1800. Clapp's scholarship was matched only by his personal large cent collection, a world-class assemblage ultimately donated to the American Numismatic Society.

#### 84. H. Chapman (1907) Stickney

Henry Chapman's coming-out party following the conclusion of the Chapman brothers' joint efforts in 1906, Stickney was the ultimate "fresh" collection, somewhat akin to the Eliasberg sales many years later. "This celebrated collection has for many years been a mystery, as hardly any one of the present generation had seen anything of it," Chapman wrote in the introduction. Nonetheless, fellow dealers were somewhat clued in, as Chapman noted that "when the news that the sale of the Stickney Collection was in my hands was made public I received many letters of congratulation." Early gold is definitive less the 1822 half eagle, which is compensated by the presence of a Brasher doubloon. The 1804 dollar came directly from the Mint Cabinet to Stickney in 1843 and eventually landed in the Eliasberg collection. The 1794 was "one of the finest dollars of this year sold for many years," while among colonial issues a number of Crosby plate coins are found. Ample patterns and territorials complement the extensive federal series in this, Henry Chapman's greatest solo effort.

#### 85. H. Chapman (1921) Jenks

For those who believe that Heritage debuted the phonebook-sized catalogue in the late twentieth century, one need not look further than Jenks to prove the opposite. Chapman described the collection as "the most extensive yet offered American Numismatists," and given that Jenks' remainders persisted in Chapman's stock for many years, the catalogue could have been even larger. Among United States issues are found a 1794 dollar, 1797 half, and 1792 half disme, but beyond that the strength of the American content is in the 100-plus lots of patterns, apart from a respectable amount of territorial gold. The bulk of the cabinet, containing 7302 lots sold over eleven days, is primarily foreign. With a whopping 42 plates, the volume was priced at twenty dollars, the equivalent of \$250 today, greatly exceeding the modern Heritage series, which are cover priced at \$50 and usually distributed gratis.

#### 86. American Numismatic Society (1914) *Exhibition of United States and Colonial Coins, 1914*

The best guide to "who owned what" in 1914, this catalogue, with thirty-nine plates, presented an opportunity for the members of the ANS to unveil their collections to the world, echoing the grand medallic exhibition conducted by the ANS four years previous (the "greatest exhibition of medallic art ever," according to Dick Johnson). Including four 1804 dollars, the membership was certainly up to the task. Over twenty prominent numismatists contributed,

and as the catalogue enumerated collections by exhibitor, it is a useful resource for pedigree research. The exhibition was particularly notable for patterns, the descriptions of which run to the extent of 38 pages, including pieces from Woodin, Granberg, Zerbe, Brenner, and the ANS itself, catalogued using numbers from the contemporary Adams-Woodin (1913) pattern reference.

### 87. *Numisma* (Edouard Frossard) (1877-1891)

Frossard gave up the editorship of Scott's *Coin Collector's Journal* in December 1876, intending "to relinquish, for a time at least, all connection with numismatic publications." The "urgent impertunities of many correspondents" persuaded the reluctant writer otherwise, and so *Numisma* began a long run only a month later, in January 1877. Frossard now had his own platform and quickly set the tone by referring to the *Coin Collector's Journal* as "Scott's Diluted Monthly Pap." Later he accused Scott of using the "printer's devil" as a proofreader, though beyond Scott his liveliest complaints were reserved for Chapman's *Bushnell* catalogue (#57 in our survey), a multiple-installment rant spread over several issues in 1882. The July 1884 number follows up with Frossard's celebrated bibliophilic insult, describing a Chapman catalogue "with margin sufficiently large for corrections." In between the editorial comments is a chatty newsletter offering coins for sale, auction previews and results, want ads, occasional feature articles, and numerous displeasures regarding delicacies that somehow escaped the Mint. Remy Bourne's 1983 reprint of the entire run has happily made this engaging periodical more accessible to modern readers, who might prefer to save their shekels for an original *Bushnell* instead of the original *Numisma*.

### 88. *Bowers & Merena* (1987) Taylor

A landmark sale for colonial copper, the Taylor catalogue was immediately a *reference de rigueur* for any collector of the 1785-88 state copper series. A necessary companion are the limited-edition photographic plates of the same sale, issued in a handsome purple volume, of which 182 numbered copies were produced. The 23 plates depict, to full effect, hundreds of Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Connecticut state coppers. The *tout ensemble* is in turn a mandatory "go with" item for Maris's *A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey*, as the Taylor cabinet included multiple Maris plate coins. One is tempted also to add Crosby's *The Early Coins of America* to our little collection here, and as usual, there is no end to books!

### 89. Valentine, Daniel W. (1931) *The United States Half Dimes*

Only time and patience can unlock die varieties, and Valentine was already

in business by 1914, when he exhibited a group of half dimes at the ANS (see #86). Seventeen years later this ANS monograph, number 48 in that series, covered die varieties of early, bust, and seated half dimes. Although superseded by Logan and McCloskey's *Federal Half Dimes* (118th in our survey) for early and bust varieties, Valentine remains a core reference for the seated half dime collector. Valentine's personal collection, nearly eighty years since his death, remains a great numismatic mystery. Despite the 47 collotypes included here, the noted half dime variety hunter Stephen Crain has matched but three specimens to the Valentine plates, most notably the mega-coin, a high-grade 1802. Further biographical information is provided in Crain's article "Dr. Daniel Webster Valentine (1863-1932)," published in *The Gobrecht Journal* (March 2008, issue no. 101).

#### 90. Akers, David W. (1975) *United States Gold Patterns*

If patterns are the record of "what might have been," then surely gold patterns are the realization of the coiner's grandest daydreams. In this, the definitive photographic record of United States gold patterns, Akers ably catalogued the John E. Wilkison collection, a cabinet which clearly required much more than a generous checkbook to assemble. Indeed, Akers describes the task as consuming over thirty years of patience and persistence. The author further gathered images from the most important institutional collections in order to present a thorough examination of the subject. The technical production of the book — sumptuous color photography, gilt pages, thick end papers, and a die-impressed cover of the celebrated Judd-1776 — is well paired with the content therein. A final tribute is found in Garrett/Guth (#74), who credit Akers' photographer (Tom Mulvaney) for many of the gold patterns depicted in their *Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins*.

#### 91. Gengerke, Martin (1990) *American Numismatic Auctions*

A listing of over 13,000 American numismatic auction catalogues, Gengerke is the bibliophile's bedrock. First issued in 1983, with the eighth and final edition in 1990, Gengerke applied not only his own herculean strength but recruited many bibliophilic brethren who also contributed to the final enumeration. The most obscure firms are all listed, from Coin-Ucopia to Coin-A-Rama to Koin-X-Change, and of course everyone else is in here too, the prolific Elder's 292 sales leading the pack among individual cataloguers. The work serves as a handy companion to the ANS library catalogue, for Gengerke patiently combed the stacks of the institution of record and noted what was present and what was not. Given a choice, one should try to acquire the deluxe edition of Gengerke, which contains a useful 95-page consignor's index to the

entire series. Karl Moulton has separately authored a follow-up, listing auction catalogues from 1990 to 2000, and a glance at the calendar suggests that it is once again time to resume that task.

92. Maris, Edward (1869) *Varieties of the Copper Issues of US Mint of the Year 1794*

When one encounters a long list of books dedicated to a single issue, it is safe to assume that the subject must be 1933 double eagles or 1794 large cents. Maris got the party started in 1869, but unfortunately bears great similarity to Heaton's *A Treatise of the Coinage of the United States Branch Mints* in being more important for what it represents than for its actual content. Bob Schuman, writing in *The Asylum* (vol. 19, no. 3), summed it up: "It has no great functional value. It is not useful for pedigree research. It is not helpful for variety attribution." Davis (#44) points out that the *American Journal of Numismatics* made an identical observation at the time of issue. That aside, Maris inspired generations of subsequent authors to explicate the 1794s more thoroughly, even driving them to substantial obsessions. If this monograph can assume but a sliver of credit for the subsequent works, it is more than a worthy entrant onto our Top 100 list.

93. Sotheby & Co. (1954) *Palace Collections of Egypt* (Farouk)

In the greatest numismatic road trip of all time, Abe Kosoff, John Pittman, and others trekked from the United States to Cairo in search of plunder collected by the boy-king Farouk. Such was the organization of the Egyptian government that the precise terms of sale were unclear even as the American collectors stepped onto their departing planes. What was clear was that Farouk had been raiding the Egyptian treasury in order to fund his collecting addiction, meaning that all manner of goodies were possible for the anxious Americans. For all who dared the rewards were rich — the American portion of the sale was poorly catalogued and the uncertainty of the arrangements substantially impacted the results, which would have been far more spectacular had the sale been held in London or New York. The Judd-1776 hammered at \$3600, the 1913 Liberty nickel at \$3900, while a set of three-dollar gold pieces including 1875 and 1876 proofs brought \$4500. Nearly everything was catalogued in group lots, one lot of 36 pattern dimes selling for a song at \$180. The 1933 double eagle, also in a group lot, was famously pulled from the sale at the last minute. Of the last much ink has been spilled, with much more to come. A mandatory companion to the *Farouk* catalogue are Kosoff's recollections of the sale, which were preserved in *Abe Kosoff Remembers* and also in Bowers' *Abe Kosoff: Dean of Numismatists*.

**94. Newcomb, Howard R. (1925) *The United States Cents of the Years 1801-1802-1803***

The annual ANA convention is always a good platform for a book launch, and so Newcomb debuted this effort at the 1925 event in Detroit. *The Numismatist* took care to point out that halftones were eschewed in favor of photographic plates, and that Newcomb had identified 30% more varieties than were previously known for these three dates. The work was further characterized as a labor of love and a “loss leader,” the author losing money on every copy sold. Although a valiant effort, Newcomb stopped short. “If sufficient interest is shown . . . he may be induced to take up the die varieties of other dates in the cent series,” wrote *The Numismatist*, and so the crown of the early large cent kingdom was left upon the shelf for Sheldon to claim some years later.

**95. Haseltine (1881) *Haseltine Type Table***

Actually an auction sale of Haseltine’s personal collection, this catalogue is the first significant contribution to the study of die varieties of early quarters, halves, and dollars. By this time early copper varieties were well popularized, giving us some insight into Haseltine — here was a numismatist determined to blaze his own trail. Yet Haseltine did not quite hit the ball out of the park. Consider Maris’s *A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey*, issued the same year with a full photographic record of its subject — had Haseltine been similarly able to illustrate his variety sets, this work might today be considered foundational, rather than merely classic. Perhaps that is as it should be, as one early quarter researcher (Steve Tompkins), noting Woodward’s sale of the Randall collection in 1885, suggests that much of Haseltine’s *Type Table* is more deservedly credited to the nineteenth-century collector J. Colvin Randall. Charles Davis presented the same idea earlier in *The Asylum* (vol. 11, no. 4, Fall 1993). Still, one sees what Haseltine left on the table — it is worth noting that the three follow-up works to Haseltine (Beistle, Browning, and Bolender) are all included in our Top 100. In any case, Haseltine serendipitously paves the way for our next entry, a collection squarely built on the shoulders of our numismatic forebears.

**96. Heritage (2006) *Reiver***

A collector’s collector, *Reiver* is characterized not by an MS70 checkbook chasing trophy rarities, but rather by patience and an encyclopedic knowledge of early American federal coinage. Reiver specialized in die varieties and die states of copper and silver coinage between 1793 and 1839 and over time built the most complete cabinet of its kind. Though rarities such as an 1804 dollar

are not found, a nearly complete die-variety set of early dollars is, including the unique 1795 BB-29. While the esoterica of die marriages and intermediate die states trumped the crazed pursuit of classic rarities and finest-knowns, this is not to say that Reiver completely ignored condition — indeed, this set of three catalogues presented thousands of pleasing “collector” coins. Paired with the 2002 Logan sale (216th in our survey), collectors of early American silver will be well armed to do battle with the variety zealots on the bourse floors.

97. Rulau, Russell, and George Fuld (1999) *Medallic Portraits of Washington*

Certain numismatic topics demand a complete re-examination every century or so. We are fortunate to be living in the golden age of “round two,” as Bowers revisits Crosby and other works, such as this, come to the fore. “A complete revision of Baker,” according to the introduction: the authors have built upon the 1885 foundation (#47) with countless sale citations, references to private and institutional collections, and a thorough photographic record. Moreover, new Baker numbers are assigned to the host of issues produced since 1885, perhaps the ultimate tribute to the initial work, for few would have quibbled with a new series of “R-F” designations. No doubt the torch will again be taken up in a hundred years by an ambitious newcomer, who will have not one but two ancient texts to preserve.

98. Heath, Laban (1864) *Heath’s Infallible Counterfeit Detector at Sight*

Heath’s *Detector* series bears many similarities to Evans (#58). Both relied on the good graces of friends in the government, both were published in very large numbers, and both come in a tangled web of variants. Playing on the legitimate public fear of counterfeiting, Heath managed to convince any number of government agencies to supply him with actual currency samples (partially defaced) which were collected into thin volumes and accompanied by a discussion of the production of genuine and fake currency. Some editions also included proofs produced from counterfeit plates, allowing for immediate comparison of the authentic and specious articles. The public was wildly receptive, but Heath would have done well to collect his winnings and exit the scene, for much of his success was reversed when he attempted to expand the series into the field of counterfeit bonds. Davis (#44) gives five pages to exploring the variants, while Eric Newman in 1991 contributed the excellent “Heath’s Counterfeit Detectors: An Extraordinarily Successful Comedy of Errors” to *The American Numismatic Association Centennial Anthology*.

99. Clapp, George H., and Howard R. Newcomb (1947) *The United States Cents of the Years 1795, 1796, 1797, 1800*

Clapp and Newcomb, following up on previous individual contributions (#83, #94), teamed up here to fill the remaining holes in their penny board of early large cents. In conjunction with other works, this offering completed by date the comprehensive treatment of early large cent varieties. Sheldon's *Early American Cents* consolidated the whole picture two years later, though sadly Newcomb did not live to see the masterpiece, or even this volume, which was published posthumously by the American Numismatic Society. Clapp's and Newcomb's previous works on early large cents, combined with this, were neatly repackaged in a 1976 reprint, edited by Denis Loring and published by Quarterman.

100. Brunk, Gregory C. (1987) *American and Canadian Counter Marked Coins*

And now for something completely different: while the previous works in our survey generally treat coins, tokens, medals, and paper money in their intended forms, Brunk delivers the story of a completely unintended usage. Merchant countermarks, privately struck on circulating coins and primarily in the nineteenth century, served as an advertising medium for numerous commercial interests. Brunk lists thousands of examples and decodes many, though to be sure quite a few continue to defy attribution. Still, this remains the first and best source for the researcher to consult. Brunk further makes a conscious effort to eliminate the noise, the host of issues with stray letters and digits which are at best historical detritus. A useful companion is number 10 of the ANS Coinage of the Americas Conference Proceedings, from 1994, which contains a lengthy contribution from Dave Bowers on the topic of counterstamped large cents and adds much additional context to the general subject.

## A Visit to the Historic Mehl Building

*Max B. Spiegel*

In an article published in the Fall 1997 issue of the Eastern States Numismatic Association's *Numisma*, Charles Davis wrote about the Star Rare Coin Building in Fort Worth, Texas — once the headquarters of B. Max Mehl. Although numismatic activity had ceased sometime around 1960, the Star Building was again brought to the attention of numismatists in March 1992, when M. N. Daycius Galleries of Fort Worth sent a flyer to members of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society that announced the sale of books and auction catalogues from a "dealer long deceased." Some members soon noticed that the date of the auction was April 1, 1992 (April Fool's Day), and the auctioneer's name could be pronounced "mendacious". It became apparent that the auction was a hoax, but not before Armand Champa had hired an agent to go to the address given on the flyer.

Champa's messenger reported back that building, located on 1204 Magnolia, was boarded up and condemned by the city. It was apparent that no auction was to be held on the premises. Hoping to get some value from the special trip to Fort Worth, Champa had numerous photographs taken of the building as it appeared at the time, with an emphasis on the entrance, which featured a Fugio Cent prominently located inside an arch above the door. A few sets of these photographs were subsequently distributed by Champa.

This summer Davis asked if I wanted to take a trip to Fort Worth from my apartment in nearby Dallas (about an hour's drive) to report back on the current state of the Star Building. I readily agreed. Visitors to the building during the mid-1990s reported that it was unoccupied save for numerous rats and homeless people, but the main façade was still intact. Davis reported in his article that several groups had attempted to organize the removal of the sandstone entrance for possible

relocation at the ANA Museum in Colorado Springs. The estimated cost — \$50,000 just to disassemble that part of the building — proved to be the undoing of the noble idea. Davis ended his article with a sobering line: “But unless some definitive action is taken soon, it is probable that the entire building will fall to the wrecking ball.”

As I drove to Fort Worth one hot Sunday afternoon in August, I knew that I could be looking for a building that had long since been demolished. Only five years earlier, in the June 17, 2003, issue of *Nu-mismatic News*, David Lange had written an article about his visit to the building, which was in poor shape at the time. I was hopeful that it was still around and with a flicker of excitement I thought about seeing the once-headquarters of one of the greatest numismatists of the twentieth century. Before long I reached Magnolia Avenue and I kept my eyes peeled for anything that resembled the photographs from Davis’s article. The 1200 block of Magnolia came and went, with nothing but a few dilapidated houses on either side. Just when I thought the trip was a loss, I realized that the street was actually divided into East and West Magnolia Avenue. While I had explored the east side, it was possible that the Star Building was located to the west.

West Magnolia, it turned out, had a much more historic appearance than its eastern counterpart. I passed an old building with a sign that said, “Ft. Worth National Bank”. Several blocks later I saw the Star Building, just as it had appeared in the photographs taken more than fifteen years earlier (Fig. 1). Upon closer inspection I realized that Mehl’s former headquarters was not in the decrepit state reported by visitors in the mid-1990s, but rather had been completely renovated. To my amazement the original façade remained, with the letters “B” and “E” missing from Mehl’s name below the Fugio Cent (Fig. 2). Just as it had appeared when Champa had his photographs taken more than fifteen years ago, the entrance now said: “NUMISMATIC CO. OF TEXAS” with “MAX M HL” before. A clear outline of the two missing letters was visible.

The front door now has the name of the building’s current occupant stenciled on the door: Emily McLaughlin and her practice, West Magnolia Plastic Surgery.<sup>1</sup> At the main entrance are two doors, with a Fugio Cent above the main door and an eagle above the other. Between the

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<sup>1</sup> “Our Office.” West Magnolia Plastic Surgery. <http://www.mclaughlinmd.com/office.html>



Figure 1. Street view of the renovated B. Max Mehl building.



Figure 2. Closer view of the façade of Mehl's headquarters.

doors are two windows, each of which has a medallion above: one of a star, the other with a head reminiscent of Victory (Fig. 3). The side entrance of Mehl's building is on 1200 South Henderson Street, and each of the double doors had "Historic Mehl Building" stenciled on the glass (Fig. 4). The back of the building appears to have a modern four-story addition (as opposed to the three-story front of the structure), with "Historic Mehl Building" written on the rear door as well.



Figure 3. Front windows at the center of the Mehl building façade.



Figure 4. Glass door at the side entrance of the Star Building.

Several signs identified the area as part of the Fairmount/Southside National Historic District. Most of the buildings in the 1-square-mile area that comprises the district were built around the turn of the twentieth century, according to the neighborhood association's website. When the Star Building was built in 1916 by noted Fort Worth architect

Wiley G. Clarkson, the neighborhood was home to many middle- and upper-class families, with a substantial Jewish population that included the Mehls. The demographics slowly changed; by the 1950s and 1960s the number of low-income residents increased, and many of the commercial structures were abandoned. In 1978 the Fairmount Association was founded by a group of residents who wanted to restore the former grandeur of the neighborhood, and their efforts led to the National Historic District status given to the area in 1990.<sup>2</sup> Since then, there have been numerous attempts to rehabilitate the historic buildings in the area, including the Star Building.

It was not until recently that the Star Building finally received the attention it so desperately needed. In 2001 four investors formed a partnership called Max Mehl Development LLC. No progress was made until 2005 when two members of that group, Fran McCarthy and Ray Boothe, got to work on the renovation, which was completed in 2007. The \$2.4 million project was not without its setbacks, one of which involved replacing the original windows. Although approved at the December 2005 meeting of the Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission, the modern windows, which were almost identical to the old ones, were later discovered to have an aluminum veneer which does not fit with the building guidelines set by the district in 1990.<sup>3</sup> I am unsure whether the current windows were the aluminum-plated ones, or if the developers were forced to replace them.

It was great to see that the former home of B. Max Mehl has been restored to its former grandeur. For nearly a decade there has been talk of renovating the Star Building, but despite several disappointments the once-decrepit structure is now home to a new tenants. Thankfully, its roots as the "Historic Mehl Building" have not been forgotten by its current owner and the Fairmount/Southside National Historic District. The headquarters of one of the greatest American numismatists still stands to be appreciated by numismatists more than 50 years after his death. With the ANA National Money Show scheduled to be in Fort Worth in March 2010, many numismatists will have the opportunity to visit the restored Star Building.

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2 Fairmount Southside Historic District. <http://www.historicfairmount.com/default.aspx>

3 McGraw, Dan. "Glass Pains." *Fort Worth Weekly*. <http://www.fwweekly.com/content.asp?article=4620>

## Observations on Two Recent Sales

*John W. Adams*

We have seen some truly wonderful sales of numismatic literature in recent months, with a wealth of rarely-seen material, including some once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. The following remarks can only touch a few of the highlights, with the Chapman brothers providing some of the most interesting.

### KOLBE'S TWINLEAF SALE

The Kolbe sale of January 10, 2009, provided a special feast for numismatic bibliophiles. For many, the *summa desiderata* are “plated Chapmans,” of which the sale contained no less than 41 examples, including 21 of the 22 known quarto-size editions. This section of the Kolbe catalogue is prefaced by a photograph of the two Chapman brothers in their study in May 1890 — an image that had not previously been published and one that set the tone most appropriately for the material to follow.

For those bibliophiles who like their plated Chapmans in high condition, there were nine catalogues described as very fine that could also boast original covers. Noteworthy within this group was a 1921 Henderson, a rare item in any condition, but particularly so when it comes “near new...original white silk tie at the spine.” For those bibliophiles who focus on content, almost any plated Chapman is worthwhile, but Bushnell, Beckwith, and Hunter are sublime. Bushnell was the most inquiring and most acquisitive of the early collectors of Americana. Dr. Beckwith assembled a set of gem large cents that are complimented in dramatic fashion by S. H. Chapman’s photography, and Hunter brought together one of the best-ever collections of Indian peace medals, including some rarities that have not appeared since his sale in 1920.

This Kolbe auction gives large cent collectors their own private banquet. Present for sale are all of the great rarities including 1881

Andrews, 1870 Maris, the 1923 edition of S. H. Chapman on 1794 large cents, and presentation copies both of Clapp on 1798-1799 and Newcomb on 1801-1802-1803.

Bibliophiles who covet plate catalogues in general had what might be deemed a surfeit. In addition to auctions of such famous collectors as Parmalee, Woodside, and Malcolm Jackson, there were four plated Elders, all of which are rarities. Even rarer are Woodward sales #92 and #95, both of which were present in the plate editions. Finally, there was one seemingly unique item, a copy of C. E. Fraser's auction of March 27, 1879, with two heliotype plates. The first (and last) sale of this auctioneer, this marks the only appearance of an example with plates.

The sale contains some truly "special editions." In this category, we note the large-paper Hickcox, one of five issued and three currently known. Kolbe's description, in which he explains the importance of the contents to which he adds biographical notes, is reference material in itself. Another very special edition is the large paper copy of the important Levick sale of 1865. Kolbe speculates that this item may be unique in its bound format and is very likely the self-same copy offered as the last lot in the Levick auction.

For those who collect content as opposed to plates or special editions, there are three lots of special significance. The first, in order of appearance, is a volume made up by Charles I. Bushnell. He extracted the two earliest monographs on US medals — one by James Mease (1834) and one by J. Francis Fisher (1837), both published in the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society* — and had these bound together. The extraction would be more desecration than achievement, were it not then used by Bushnell to enter his own holdings of the medals listed by the two authors, as well as other snippets of information.

The second notable item of content is a clamshell case holding eighteen articles written by M. A. Stickney and published in the *Historical Collections of the Essex Institute*, 1859 to 1863. Never before referenced in numismatic circles, these articles feature a thorough review of our colonial coinage. Along with Crosby's *magnum opus* published in 1875 and Q. David Bowers' equally superb work published in 2009, this new corpus of Stickney's writings is one of the milestones in an important segment of US numismatic research.

The third lot of special content is yet another item out of the library of Charles Bushnell, his copy of *The Defence of the Conduct of People of Ireland*, written anonymously by Jonathan Swift. This important tract provides contemporary insights into the Hibernia coinage — the low esteem in which it was held in Great Britain (particularly Ireland) with the consequent export of this coinage to colonial America. Written on the fly-leaf, presumably by Bushnell, were the words: “Very very rare — do not sell.”

All in all, Kolbe sale #107 is a cornucopia that will inevitably become a landmark in the hobby.

#### AN UNUSUAL NEWCOMER

Browsing throught the unsold lots in David Fanning’s recent sale, I came across one that I had not noticed: a 1914 fixed-price list published by S.H. Chapman. This item, deaccessioned by the Western Reserve Historical Society, is a covered, 30-page booklet that is not listed either by Adams or by Bourne. The rich content contained in the fixed-price list could be expected to have guaranteed survival. Thus, its apparent rarity suggests that Chapman was experimenting with this means of distribution, and the results must have been sufficiently disappointing that the experiment was not often (or ever) repeated.

“Rich content” is not a casual appraisal. Offered within the 30 pages were:

- Colonials: twenty items of Massachusetts silver including a new variety of Pine Tree shilling, a Higley threepence with broad axe reverse, a Liber Natus “one of only 6 to 8 known”, and an Immune Columbia bronze proof.
- United States silver: 1794 dollar; Gobrecht 1854 (3) dollars in proof; 1796 and 1797 (2) half dollars; 1796 quarter in proof; rare variety of 1807 quarter in MS; 1794, 1796 (2), and 1838 half dimes, etc.
- United States copper: cents including 1793 13-L, 1794 Hays 2 (in MS), gem 1795, MS 1805, 1821, proof 1841; half cents including MS 1795, 1796 plus six proofs.

It is possible that this array of material represented unsold lots from an earlier auction, but a quick search did not reveal a fit. Both Chapman

brothers were well-capitalized dealers, typically carrying an inventory that was large by contemporary standards. From the rarity of the fixed price lists, one can infer that the inventory was distributed either by consignments to favored collectors or by retail in their Philadelphia store.

The preface to this 1914 fixed-price list gives descriptions of various grades including Proof, Uncirculated, Extremely Fine, Very Fine, Fine, Very Good, Fair, and Poor. What caught our attention was this statement: "I published these grades photographically and marked on a plate in my Jewett sale catalog in 1909." Sure enough, turning to Plate XII of the Jewett catalogue, there are ten lots of American silver, out of twenty lots depicted on the plate, marked with grades ranging from Proof to Good. This feature is not noted in the preface to the Jewett catalogue nor are we aware of any other reference to it. Suffice to say that the modern grading services would not be pleased to see these century-old standards exhumed. Chapman's "Ex. F." would be MS something-or-other today and, in like vein, an encapsulated MS 60 or MS 62 would not have been considered uncirculated by our early collectors. We all know that grading practices have undergone devaluation, but thanks to the Jewett catalogue (and thanks to the 1914 fixed-price list), seeing is believing.

Al Boka hopes that NBS members (and anyone else interested) might help in compiling biographical information on notable collectors of US large cents and half cents. The current listing can be found at his site: <http://www.1794largeccnts.com>  
Suggestions, additions, corrections, etc. are invited!

## News from the ANA Library

*RyAnne Scott*

The American Numismatic Association Library's greatest virtue is the ability to deliver information into numismatists' hands. For the price of media mail shipping, hobbyists and bibliophiles can peruse prohibitively expensive or hard-to-find volumes for up to a twelve-week period.

The library's patrons live from coast to coast, and most rarely get the chance to visit the two-floor ANA Library. With this in mind, my primarily goal since becoming Library Manager this past June is to improve access to library information via the Internet.

This mission has taken many forms. One way is expanding offerings available in our online catalogue. Since last summer, the library staff has added more than 1,000 new holdings, including new and classic numismatic books as well as periodicals. Within the next year, a greatly expanded listing of periodicals and auction-catalogue holdings should be available online as well.

The library web pages recently got a dramatic makeover, with new features and services. Library users can access this area of our site ([www.money.org](http://www.money.org)) by scrolling over the "Explore the World of Money" tab and selecting "library."

One feature I hope will be of great interest to NBS members is the "Suggest a Book" area. It is the perfect venue for bibliophiles to suggest books and other materials they would like added to the collection. Personally, I value this input greatly and would use it to search for sought-after materials and guide future purchases.

However, the drive to expand online offerings has just begun. In the coming year, the library plans to unveil a numismatic literature guide, offer downloadable content, and give hobbyists access to their favorite numismatic authors. In doing so, we hope to bridge the distance between numismatists across the country to encourage and foster an active dialogue among hobbyists.

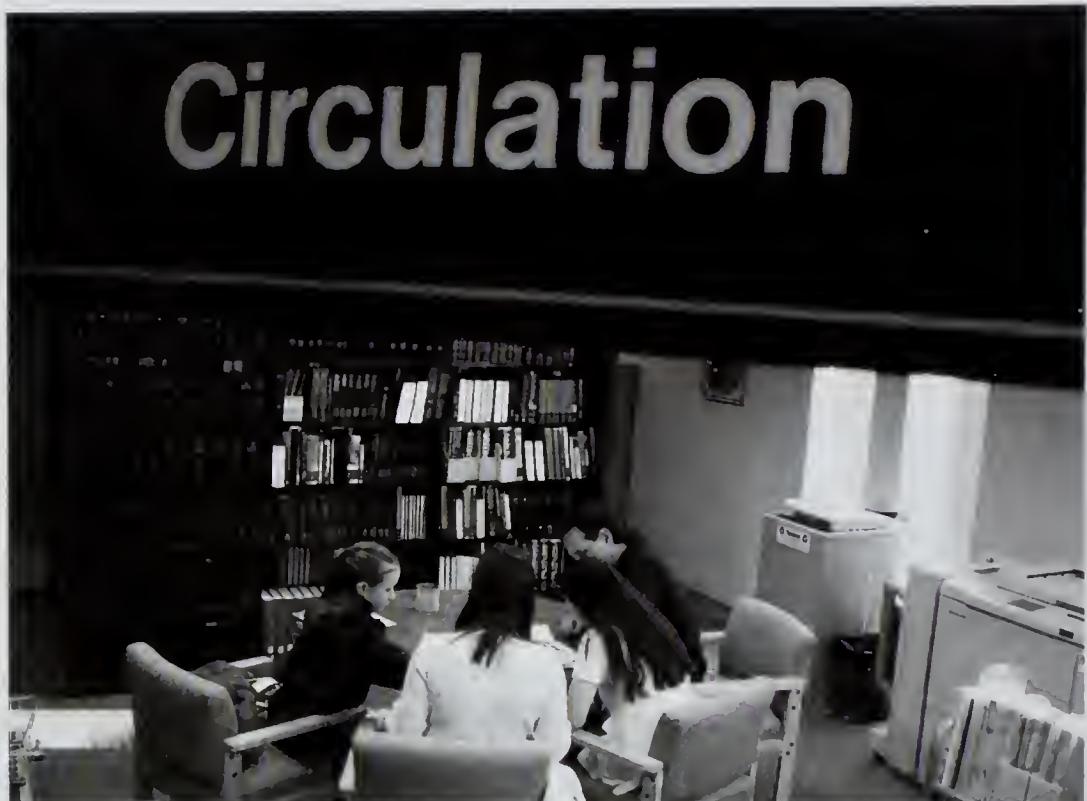


Figure 1. Inside the ANA Library.

#### RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The ANA Library appreciates the numismatic community's generous donations. Recently, the library has received a number of interesting gifts, which are now stored in the Rare Book Room and available for viewing by appointment.

One such donation, *Braunschweig-lüneburgische chronica*, is a three-volume history of German nobility published in 1772, which features descriptions and illustrations of their coins and medals (ANA Library No. JG98.B72R4 V.1-3). The set, donated by Larry and Ira Goldberg, is only available in twelve other US libraries. "It's kind of difficult to cite from a book no one else has," said Ira Goldberg. "We thought this book would be better off with the library."

Other such donations came from Richard Coffin of Augusta, Maine, and Robert Christie of Carmel, NY. While sorting through boxes of his father's things, Coffin found a veritable hoard of more than 400 issues of *The Numismatist*, dating from 1895 to 1936.

Christie decided to provide the library with copies of the *American Journal of Numismatics* and the *Bulletin of the American Numismatic*

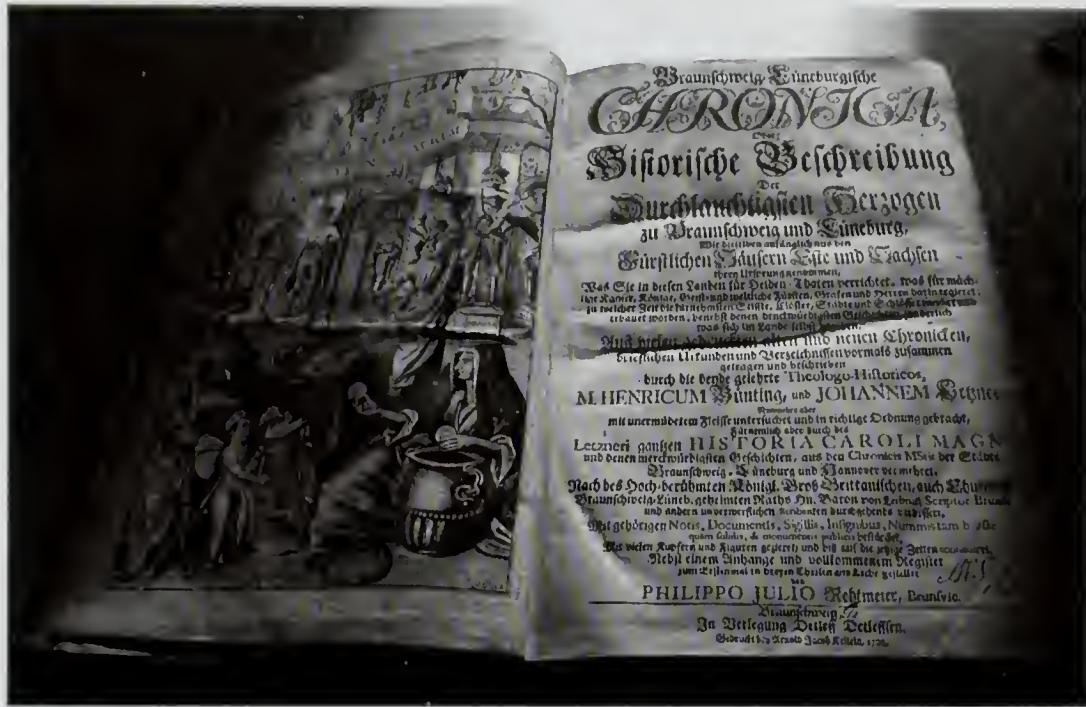


Figure 2. The Braunschweig-lüneburgische chronica.

and Archaeological Society, including complete, twelve-issue sets of volume 1, from 1866, and volume 4, from 1869.

The following is small sampling of new ANA library books, which are available to borrow:

Augsberger, Leonard. *Treasure in the Cellar: A Tale of Gold in Depression-Era Baltimore*. Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 2008. (ANA Library No. CC55.A9)

Bowers, Q David (ed.). 2009. *The Official Red Book of United States Pattern Coins. Experimental and Trial Pieces*. 10th Edition. Atlanta, GA: Whitman Publishing, LLC. (GA90.J8 2009)

Fricke, Pierre. *Collecting Confederate Paper Money: Field Edition 2008*. New York: Smythe, 2008. (US60.F7 2008)

Holabird, Fred N. *The Rush for the Gold! America's Gold Rushes (Summer 2008)*. Reno: Fred N. Holabird, 2008. (GB70.R8)

Manville, Harrington E. *Numismatic Guide to British and Irish Printed Books, 1600-2004*. London: Spink & Son, 2005. (AA50.M3n)

Moran, Michael F. *Striking Change: The Great Artistic Collaboration of Theodore Roosevelt and Augustus Saint-Gaudens*. Atlanta: Whitman Publishing, 2008.

Newman, Eric P. *The Early Paper Money of America*. Iola: Krause Publications, 2008. (US40.N4e 2008)

Newman, Eric P. *United States Fugio Copper Coinage of 1787*. Atlanta: Whitman Publishing, 2008. (GB30.N4a)

Nipper, Will. In *Yankee Doodle's Pocket: The Myth, Magic and Politics of Money in Early America*. Conway: Brownstone Press, 2008. (GA40.N5)

Tompkins, Steve M. *Early United States Quarters, 1796-1838*. Sequim: Steve M. Tompkins & Destni, Inc., 2008. (GB24.T6)

### Help Promote the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Howard A. Daniel III sets up a club table to represent the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (and the International Bank Note Society, Numismatics International, and the Philippines Collectors Forum) at both of the annual American Numismatic Association events and at the International Paper Money Show.

*The Asylum* and NBS membership applications are given to numismatists interested in the society from the table. Journals and applications for the other societies are also given out.

There are also world bank notes and world coins to give to young and new numismatists in a packet which includes a consolidated membership application form for all four groups. References are given to numismatists but especially to teachers and scout counselors, for them to use with their students and scouts.

Howard always needs volunteers to staff the table and needs your unwanted references, world banknotes, and/or world coins. Please contact Howard at [hadaniel3@msn.com](mailto:hadaniel3@msn.com) to make the donation arrangements. The best method to get them to him is to take them to one of the three shows, otherwise, you can mail them to him. Howard can also send a thank-you letter to each donor which will document their donation for tax purposes.

## Candidates for the 2009 Election of Officers for the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

This summer the Numismatic Bibliomania Society will once again conduct its biennial election, and the ballots are distributed with this issue. As the NBS continues to grow, there are some new faces in this year's slate, and new members who will appreciate learning more about the "old hands"; the candidates' personal statements here will introduce them to the members. Ballots must be received by July 1, 2009.

In addition, there is another insert with a proposed amendment to the by-laws. In order to reflect the growing membership of the NBS and take advantage of fresh perspectives and new energies, without losing the services of the more experienced, it is proposed to increase the size of the Board of Trustees from six to nine. The insert in this issue provides the necessary notification to the membership, so that the proposal may be voted on at the NBS Annual Meeting, which will be held at the ANA World's Fair of Money on August 6, 2009.

The candidates for the various positions are as follows:

- *President*: Dan Hamelberg
- *Vice President*: Dan Freidus
- *Secretary/Treasurer*: David Sundman
- *Board of Trustees*: Leonard Augsburger, Frank Campbell, David Fanning, W. David Perkins, Marc Ricard, P. Scott Rubin

The candidates who have submitted statements are listed alphabetically below.

### *Leonard Augsburger (Board)*

Leonard Augsburger is a frequent author and speaker in the field of American numismatics. With co-author Joel Orosz, he delivered the 2008 Groves Forum lecture at the American Numismatic Society on the subject of Frank H. Stewart and the first United States Mint, a

work currently in manuscript with publication by Whitman planned for 2010. Augsburger conducted the Top One Hundred Greatest Works of American Numismatic Literature survey for the NBS and is presenting results this year in *The Asylum*. He is the author of *Treasure in the Cellar: The Story of the Baltimore Gold Hoard*, published by the Maryland Historical Society in 2008. His work has appeared periodically in *The Asylum*, on varied topics such as the ANS Chapman correspondence, numismatic research methods, and the National Numismatic Collection. Augsburger delivered presentations at the NBS ANA meetings in 2003 and 2007, covering the status of current research projects. He serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Liberty Seated Collector's Club and has been employed as a software engineer in the telecommunications field since 1987. He is a member of the ANS, ANA, NLG, NBS, LSCC, EAC, MCA, C4OA, and the Chicago Coin Club.

#### *Francis D. Campbell (Board)*

During my many years of service in the Library of the American Numismatic Society, I had the opportunity to work with perhaps the world's greatest collection of numismatic literature. I also had the opportunity to work closely with those whose primary interest was the literature itself, with many of the great collectors who had contracted the condition we know as bibliomania, and with the major firms involved in the sale of numismatic literature. On any given day, I might have had the enviable duty of working with the ledgers of Virgil Brand, the business correspondence of the Chapman firm, the archives of the Garrett and Norweb families, or those of the New Netherlands Coin Company. I was privileged to see incorporated into the ANS library either part or all of the library collections formerly belonging to Edward T. Newell, David M. Bullowa, George C. Miles, Charles K. Panish, Armand Champa, Harry W. Bass, Jr., John Adams, Herman Miller, and Charles A. Hersh. I would hope that my experience would enable me to contribute meaningfully as a Board Member of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society.

#### *David Fanning (Board)*

David F. Fanning is a numismatic bookseller from Columbus, Ohio. He holds a PhD in English from the Ohio State University, and is a member of the ANA, ANS, C4, EAC, MCA, NBS and several other numis-

matic organizations. Although he deals in numismatic literature from all times and places, the focus of his own research is on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century coins and medals relating to the Americas.

### Dan Hamelberg (President)

I have been a serious collector of numismatic literature since George Kolbe's sale of Lester Merkin's library. Did I get hooked. Adventures with Armand followed for many years. A few hoards later (Jack Collins, the Providence collection, Keith Kellman, Jeff Peck, Dan Freidus, and others) and a few major sales later (Katen, Champa, Ford) along with much serious searching and here I am with over 1,200 linear feet of bookshelf space and still counting. I am seriously out of control (just ask my wife) but a perfect candidate for the NBS. The NBS has the greatest fraternity of collectors I have ever met. I started with coins as most do, but the books and the people who come with them are more interesting. I am currently the lucky curator of many special books, and welcome the opportunity to share. With the E-Sylum and many individual requests for information, I have been lucky to share my library with others. The backbone of the NBS is in the sharing of information. I am for it.

### W. David Perkins (Board)

W. David Perkins is a long time collector and researcher of the early United States silver dollars (1794-1803). Dave also collects Civil War store cards, tokens, and numismatic literature, including books, catalogues, and documents pertaining to the great early silver dollar collections and collectors. His interest in Civil War store cards started with a discovery that his great-great-grandfather issued two Detroit, Michigan, Civil War tokens in 1863.

Dave was a consultant to Bowers & Merena in the cataloging of the Eliasberg early silver dollars and has catalogued and consulted on early dollars for a number of numismatic auction firms. He has spoken on the early dollars at a number of ANA Numismatic Theatres and has taught a class on the dollars at the ANA Summer Conference. Dave was a major contributor to and wrote the introduction for Jules Reiver's book *The United States Early Silver Dollars, 1794 to 1803*. Dave has also been a contributor to a number of other books over the years, including contributing a large number of plate photos for the recently published second edition of the Hibler and Kappen book, *So-Called Dollars*.

Dave is a past Secretary / Treasurer of NBS. In addition to NBS, Dave is a member of numerous numismatic organizations and clubs including the ANA, ANS, JRCS (LM), NLG, EAC, TAMS, CWTS (LM), and others. Dave is an officer and is Treasurer of the John Reich Collector's Society. He has authored dozens of articles for a wide variety of publications including the *The Asylum*, *John Reich Journal*, *Coin World*, *TAMS Journal*, *Civil War Token Journal*, *The Gobrecht Journal*, *NOW News*, and *Talkin' Tokens*. His articles have won literary awards from NLG, JRCS, CWTS, TAMS, NTCA, and NOW.

### *Marc Ricard (Board)*

I joined the ANA in 1972 as a junior with the view to follow in my father's footsteps. I never caught the coin collecting bug, but at age 16, I visited my first used bookstore and fell in love! I began to form a large collection of religious material, including an extensive collection of New Testaments in various exotic languages of the world. One afternoon in 1985, I wandered into my father's library and opened a copy of Laskey's book on Napoleonic Medals. From that point forward, I began collecting any numismatic literature I could get my hands on.

Over the past twenty or so years I have developed a collection of books and catalogues on ancient, world, and US coins, tokens, medals, and currency. With nearly 5000 items now in hand, I have decided to concentrate henceforth on United States and Canadian numismatic literature. After reading Len's compilation of the 100 Greatest, I realized that I don't have some of the critical rarities that I should.

I am absolutely convinced that the field of numismatic literature is in a period of change. I dined with several Young Numismatists at the ANA banquet in Baltimore and shared a somewhat rare 1579 first edition of Occo's *Imperatorum Romanorum* with them. Their response was enthusiastic to say the least, which was very encouraging for future synergies between the collecting of numismatics and its related literature.

It would be my hope in the future to contribute my efforts and resources to a program encouraging and involving Young Numismatists in the collecting and exhibiting of numismatic literature. They are the future of collecting, and by sharing with their key members the important role that literature plays in the hobby, I think we can make a huge impact.

*P. Scott Rubin (Board)*

I have collected coins for over 50 years, since the age of seven, I have collected numismatic literature for over 40 years. I am a past President of NBS and a board member since the late 1980s. My main collecting interest is US auction catalogues, of which I have over eight thousand.

I have written articles about coins or literature for the *Gobrecht Journal*, *The Asylum*, *The Numismatist*, and *Coin World*. I have presented talks at ANS and ANA on many different topics. I have also contributed information to many numismatic books such as the *Red Book*.

*David Sundman (Secretary/Treasurer)*

David Sundman, President of the Littleton Coin Company of Littleton, New Hampshire, first learned about the fascinations of the rare coin field during his grade school years in the mid-1950s. He spent many afternoons after school and many Saturdays and each summer vacation working for his father, stamp and coin dealer Maynard Sundman. Maynard and his wife Fannie Sundman had founded the family firm, Littleton Stamp Company in 1945, and soon branched out into numismatics in 1949. David Sundman enjoyed both philately and numismatics, and naturally developed a strong interest in history. He graduated from Gettysburg College with a BA in History in 1970, and several years later rejoined the family firm in 1972, by then employing more than a hundred. Today the firm is staffed with 342 full-time associates and is a major employer in the town of Littleton.

A lifetime member of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), Sundman celebrated his 28th year of ANA membership in 2007. In 2001, he received the ANA's Glenn Smedley Memorial Award, recognizing those who have worked to better the association. In 2003, he received the ANA's Medal of Merit for his active support of the Association's educational and promotional efforts. In addition, Mr. Sundman has received the ANA's top recruiter award five times.

A member of the American Numismatic Society since 1984, Sundman recently became a Life Fellow. He also is a member of the Professional Numismatists Guild, and received their Significant Contribution Award in 2001 for his consumer protection efforts. Sundman joined the Numismatic Bibliomania Society in 1982, and is now a Life Member.

# Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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The Asylum (ISSN 1552-1931) is published quarterly. Manuscripts should be sent to the editor by e-mail or on CD. Authors, please put your name(s) on all submitted material.

All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

NBS Membership: in the United States, \$15.00 annual dues for standard mail, \$20.00 annual dues for first-class mail; outside the United States, \$25.00. Members receive all available issues of the current volume. Requests for membership and change of address should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

# David F. Fanning

## Numismatic Literature

Auction II – June 4, 2009

We are conducting our second mail-bid auction, which will close on **June 4**. The sale includes works spanning six centuries and several languages on ancient, medieval, foreign and U.S. numismatics, with many rare and important works. Selected highlights include:

- All three original French editions of Charpentier on the medals of Louis XIV, including the rare first issue with the suppressed preface
- 18th-century Lima mint ordinances
- Meili on the paper money of Brazil
- A 1709 Act of Queen Anne, regulating the value of coins in America
- An 1875 Crosby in a Lyman Low binding
- Correspondence between Tom Elder and Leonard Holland
- Groux's 1856 *Prospectus*
- A set of Nagy plates of New Jersey coppers
- Newcomer collection photographs and negatives
- The fabled first printing of *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*
- J. Francis Fisher's 1837 "Description of American Medals"
- A presentation Eidritz on architectural medals
- A substantial run of the *Numismatic Circular*
- A plated Jenks in the original binding
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